



February 22, 2005

Warwick man is charged with kidnapping and interstate domestic violence

A federal grand jury in Providence has charged **Joseph Nicolella**, of Warwick, with kidnapping and interstate domestic violence for allegedly forcing his wife across the state line from Rhode Island to Connecticut and allegedly assaulting her in Connecticut.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Colonel Steven M. Pare, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, and Glocester Police Chief Jamie L. Hainsworth jointly announced a five-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on February 16 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

The indictment alleges that, on December 5, Nicolella kidnapped his wife from Rhode Island to Connecticut. It also alleges that he traveled interstate to commit a crime of domestic violence, traveled interstate to violate a domestic protection order, and that he forced his wife across state lines in the commission of a domestic violence offense and in violation of a protection order.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the maximum penalties for the offenses charged are: interstate kidnapping (one count) – life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; interstate domestic violence (two counts) – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; and interstate violation of a protection order (two counts) – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

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Nicolella, 40, of 85 Adrian Avenue, Warwick, is held without bail at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions on state charges and will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment on the federal indictment.

The **Federal Bureau of Investigation, Rhode Island State Police, Glocester Police,** and the **Connecticut State Police** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan is prosecuting it.

-30-

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